

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 AID-05 ACDA-12 IO-13 TRSE-00 OMB-01 MCE-00
/100 W

-----056565 191558Z /40

R 190936Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 478
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 1618

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: KE, MASS, MARR
SUBJECT: MILITARY SURVEY TEAM AND F-5 DELIVERY TO KENYA:
SOMALI POLITICAL STABILITY

REF: (A) STATE 63424, (B) STATE 63463, (C) STATE 65548.

1. ON MARCH 18, POL OFF INFORMED KUWAITI MFA (ARAB AFFAIRS OFFICER, IBRAHIM AL-MOOSA) OF PENDING F-5 DELIVERY AND SURVEY TEAM FOR KENYA. AL-MOOSA TOOK NOTES AND SEEMED HIGHLY INTERESTED IN THIS DEVELOPMENT. POL OFF WENT TO SOME LENGTH TO DISABUSE HIM OF THE POSSIBLE ASSUMPTION THAT THESE DEVELOPMENTS COULD BE LINKED TO THE END OF SOMALI-ETHIOPIAN FIGHTING. ALSO, AL-MOOSA INQUIRED WHETHER THE USG HAD INFORMATION TO SUGGEST THAT SOMALIA WOULD "TURN ON" KENYA, NOW THAT ITS OGADEN ADVENTURE HAD PROVEN UNSUCCESSFUL, TO WHICH POL OFF REPLIED IN THE NEGATIVE. HE AND POL OFF AGREED THAT THE LIKELIHOOD OF ANTI-KENYAN ACTION SEEMED TO HAVE DIMINISHED DUE TO THE OGADEN DEBACLE AND THE FAILURE OF SOMALIA'S FRIENDS TO PROVIDE MUCH SUPPORT.

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2. AL-MOOSA STATED A CONCERN, HOWEVER, ABOUT A POSSIBLE SHAKEUP IN THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT WHICH MIGHT PUT PRO-SOVIET ELEMENTS IN POWER. HE ALLUDED TO DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PRES. SIAD BARRE AND HIS DEFENSE MINISTER, AND HE WONDERED ALOUD ABOUT A MILITARY THREAT TO THE PRESIDENT FROM PRO-SOVIET OFFICERS. POL OFF DISCLAIMED KNOWLEDGE OF ANY THREAT TO SIAD BARRE.

3. AL-MOOSA ALSO PRESSED POL OFF FOR AN INDICATION OF A
CHANGE IN US POLICY ON ARMING SOMALIA, WITH THE CESSATION
OF HOSTILITIES IN THE OGADEN. POL OFF REPLIED THAT HE
KNEW OF NO POLICY CHANGE AND SUGGESTED THAT THE CURRENT
POLICY, OF FORBEARANCE TO SUPPLY EITHER ETHIOPIA OR
SOMALIA, WOULD LAST AT LEAST UNTIL THERE WAS A CLEAR
COMMITMENT THAT INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED BOUNDARIES WOULD
BE RESPECTED.
MAESTRONE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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